

REMARKS

Please enter the above amendments to the claims prior to examination of the application. All amendments to the claims and the addition of new claims to the application were not made in light of the prior art. Instead the amendments and additions were made to clarify and further recite patentable features of the invention. As amended, the application now includes Claims 1-65 with Claims 1, 13, 16, 17, 25, 31, 35, 38, 40, 50, 57, 60, and 63 being independent claims.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Kevin Ransom

Registration No. 45,031

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 26, 2004.

W. Kevin Ransom